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LETTER DATED 13 MAY 1992 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CUBA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to write to you on the following matter.

It has come to my notice that on 11 May, at a press briefing with journalists, Mr. Giuliani, the spokesman for the Secretary-General, was asked what was preventing the Security Council from meeting to consider the request which I had had to submit to it on 27 April.

I am surprised by the response of the spokesman, which, according to the Department of Public Information, was as follows: "The letter was discussed in consultations, Mr. Giuliani replied, and the Council had decided to continue consulting on the issue. Its position had been conveyed to the Permanent Representative of Cuba." Subsequently, following a further question on the issue, Mr. Giuliani referred, in a rather esoteric manner, to the fact that he was not authorized "to reveal what happened in closed sessions".

I believe it necessary to clarify certain points.

Two weeks ago, in full conformity with the Charter, I officially requested that the Security Council meet to consider the terrorist activities which are being conducted against Cuba and which are promoted, encouraged or tolerated by the Government of the United States, including the criminal attack against flight CU-455 on 6 October 1976.

The Security Council has not so far met to deal with the subject raised by Cuba. Strictly, the Council has not held any meeting subsequent to 27 April.* It is therefore impossible that the Council should have taken any decision because, in order to decide anything, the first thing it has to do is precisely that - to meet.

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* In fact, the Council met yesterday, for five minutes, on another matter.

My delegation rejects - because it would be completely illegal and would have serious consequences for the Organization and its Members - the idea that the Council could adopt decisions by procedures other than its official meetings. Such meetings are the only ones provided for in the Charter and in the Council's provisional rules of procedure and cannot be replaced by any other type of encounter between its members.

The Security Council is not and cannot be allowed to become a secret society or a private club. Its obligations derive from a mandate entrusted to that organ by the Member States, and it is therefore to them that the Council must answer for the discharge of its responsibilities.

Neither the Permanent Representative of Cuba nor anyone else has been or could have been made aware of any decision adopted by the Council with regard to my letter of 27 April for the simple reason that there is not and cannot have been any decision in that respect.

I reiterate, Mr. President, the request I made to you in my letters of 27 April and 8 May and hope that the Security Council will be convened without further delay.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ricardo ALARCON DE QUESADA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Cuba
to the United Nations